

Mr. Rick Russell

NASA Technical Fellow for Materials



Mr. Richard Russell currently holds the position as the NASA Technical Fellow for Materials, a position he has held since 2016.

Mr. Russell has a B.S. degree in Metallurgical Engineering from the University of Illinois and a M.S. degree from the University of Florida in Materials and Science and Engineering.

Mr. Russell began his career in 1986 at the Naval Aviation Depot in Pensacola, Florida. In 1989 he joined NASA's Kennedy Space Center supporting the Shuttle Engineering Project Office serving as a Materials and Processes (M&P) Engineering expert. In 1996, Mr. Russell left NASA and worked in aircraft manufacturing and design at The Aerostructures Corporation in Nashville, Tennessee and Bell Helicopter in Ft. Worth, Texas. In 2001 Mr. Russell rejoined the Shuttle Program working for the United Space Alliance at Kennedy Space Center.

In 2004 Mr. Russell rejoined NASA serving as the Aging Aircraft Principal Engineer for the Orbiter Project Support Office. In 2009 Mr. Russell became a member of the Materials Science Division at the Kennedy Space Center supporting the Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle and assisting in the development of requirements for the Commercial Crew Program. In 2012 Mr. Russell was named the Chief of the Materials and Processes Engineering Branch. In 2014 he joined the Commercial Crew Program as both the spacecraft and launch vehicle Systems Manager for Specialty Engineering (Materials and Processes and Fracture Control).